

Branches erect, plume-like, clothed with flat, round-pointed, linear leaves, from one-sixteenth to three-sixteenths inch long. Flowers densely set in slender racemes three to eight inches long, which terminate the branchlets all over the top of the shrub; each flower is about one-fourth inch long, produced in the axil of a bract longer than itself; petals narrow, pink or pinkish white. Stamens ten; seeds feathery. Native of Europe, Himalaya, Afghanistan, etc.; cultivated in England since 1582. It inhabits river banks, mountain streams, and other sandy, occasionally inundated places, where it often fills the ground over long distances. Closely allied to *Tamarix* (from which it differs chiefly in the more numerous and united stamens), it is not so ornamental as various members of that genus. It is easily propagated by cuttings made of stout wood of the current year placed in sandy soil in the open ground in October. It flowers from May to August." (W. J. Bean, *Trees and Shrubs Hardy in the British Isles*, vol. 2, p. 90.)

*Phaseolus mungo* L. (Fabaceae.) 39589. Seeds of urd from Manila. Presented by Mr. William S. Lyon. "Seeds of a native *Phaseolus*. I lay no claim to its virtues as a seed producer; indeed I have it growing cheek by jowl with a number of other species and find it relatively inferior as such, but as a cover crop, I have wholly discarded all the scores of leguminous plants I have tested in favor of this. I have made distribution of the seeds to a number of abaca planters and they are most enthusiastic over its utility in young hemp (*Musa utilis*) plantations. Like myself they have all come to discredit cowpeas, and all velvet beans, Lyon included, for the reason that in good soils the growth of the cover crop is so exuberant that except at great outlay for labor, any plants under one meter tall are smothered out of existence. On the other hand, in old plantations, and which are fairly well shaded, the cowpeas and velvet beans make a spindling and inefficient growth to accomplish the main purpose of chocking out a number of objectionable weeds and grasses, which, notwithstanding the shade, flourish to the detriment of the abaca. I have more than an acre now in my rose garden and for two seasons have grown this bean to the exclusion of all others. It makes a low spreading mat about a foot thick and not much disposed to climb. The result is, I am able to plant two crops a year among my dwarf rose bushes without choking them, with a marked saving in cultivation and irrigation, as well as a marked improvement in the quantity and quality of the flowers obtained." (Lyon.)

*Phlogacanthus thyrsiflorus* (Roxb.) Nees. (Acanthaceae.) 39653. Seeds from Darjeeling, India. Presented by Mr.